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Child Safety Seats and Seat Belts

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Child Safety Alert

Children & Air Bags — It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3

1. Never put a rear-facing child seat (those used with infants) in the front seat of a car with an air bag. Your child could be in danger in a crash!

2. Make sure all children are buckled up no matter where they sit. Unbuckled children can be hurt or killed by an air bag.

3. The rear seat is the safest place for children of any age to ride.

For more information contact: The Illinois State Police Safety Education Unit at (217) 524-2525, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at (800) 424-9393.

Babies and Air Bags Don't Mix!

In hot or sunny weather, always check fabric and metal buckles for heat before putting a child into the seat.

Support the newborn's head. For about the first three months, a baby's head needs extra support. Use a rolled towel on each side of the head.

THE SAFEST PLACE FOR ANY CHILD SAFETY SEAT IS IN THE BACK SEAT OF THE VEHICLE. A child safety seat can save your child's life, but it's important to use it correctly! There are 27 different safety belt systems and 50 kinds of child safety seats on the market. **Parents must read both the child safety seat instructions and vehicle owner's manual to make sure their child's safety seat is properly installed in a vehicle.**

Wear it Right!

How to Use Seat Belts Properly

- A seat belt can only protect you if it is used — and used properly.
- Provide enough seat belts for each person traveling in your vehicle. Each person needs their own seat belt. Make sure all seat belts are working properly.
- Show you care. Ask passengers in the front and rear seats to use their safety belts. Most people will gladly buckle up if the driver asks them to.
- Do not start your car until all safety belts are fastened.

- Adjust your seat belt so it fits snugly over your hip bones. It should cross your lap low on the hips, not high across your stomach.
- A shoulder belt should go over your shoulder and across your body diagonally. It should never be worn under your arm.

Seat Belts Save Lives!

By:

- absorbing the force of a crash,
- keeping drivers in position behind the steering wheel, and helping them regain control of their vehicles,
- and holding passengers in position, preventing them from striking one another or the driver.

QUESTIONS A

Q. The Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act, what does it require?

A. The law requires anyone who transports children in Illinois in non-commercial vehicles to do so according to the following rules:

- Children under the age of four years must be secured in an approved child restraint system, more commonly called a child safety seat.
- Four- and five-year-olds must be secured either in a safety seat or by a safety belt.
- A person or legal guardian of a child under the age of four years is responsible for providing a child safety seat to anyone who transports his or her child.
- A person who transports another's child under four years of age does not violate the law if the parent or legal guardian fails to provide a child safety seat and none is used.
- A child with a physical disability, which prevents the use of standard safety seats, is exempt from the provisions of the law if the handicap is duly certified by a physician. A blanket exemption is also granted in case of medical emergency.

ND ANSWERS

Q. What is the purpose of the child restraint act?

A. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 100 percent correct use of child safety seats could have prevented nearly 500 deaths and about 56,000 serious injuries to children in the United States in just one year alone.

Q. What is the penalty for failure to comply with this law?

A. A violation of this Act is a petty offense, and the first violation shall be punishable by a fine of not more than $25, waived upon proof of possession of an approved child passenger restraint system defined under this Act. A subsequent violation of this Act is a petty offense punishable by a fine of not more than $55.

Q. Where can I buy an approved child safety seat?

A. Many department stores sell several types of child restraint systems. (Be certain they meet U.S. Department of Transportation Standards that apply to all motor vehicle child protection devices manufactured after January 1, 1981.)

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The Illinois State Police Rollover Simulator

The rollover simulator is designed to demonstrate the importance of wearing seat belts. Two life-size dummies, an adult and a child, are placed in the truck cab unbelted. To simulate a rollover accident, the cab is mechanically rotated, which causes the dummies to be ejected. The dummies are returned to the cab and secured with seat belts. Again the cab is rotated and the dummies remain safely in the cab.

To schedule a program for your school or group, please contact the Safety Education Unit at (217) 524-2525 or contact your Illinois State Police District Headquarters.

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